

NARRATIVE

Describe Population

Nye County School District proposes eight locations for Mental Health Professionals (MHP) with a total of 12.5 individuals serving in those positions throughout Nye County. This will include combining some schools based on location and / or grade level. The locations and student populations are as follows:

- Amargosa – serving Amargosa 5th graders (15), Amargosa Middle School (53) and Beatty High School (111) Students (the majority are transported from Amargosa). One FTE MHP
- Gabbs- serving Gabbs 5th graders (0), Gabbs Middle School (10) and Gabbs High School (10). One Half Time MHP
- Pahrump Elementary– Serving all 5th graders in the four Pahrump Elementary Schools (296). One FTE MHP
- Pahrump High School – Serving PVHS students (1,164). Four FTE MHP
- Pathways- Serving Pathways 5th graders (1), Middle School (20) and High School Students(144). One FTE MHP
- Rosemary Clarke – Serving RCMS students (915). Three FTE MHP
- Round Mountain – Serving Round Mountain 5th graders (19), Middle School (56) and High School Students (78). One FTE MHP
- Tonopah – Serving Tonopah 5th graders (31), Middle School (75) and High School Students (113). One FTE MHP

Describe Need

Nye County School District student population is 5,167 per the 2014-15 District Accountability Report. This report further reflects that Nye County has just over 24% of the state's habitual truants and 12% of the state's habitual disciplinary problems; yet barely over 1% of the state student body population.

Nye County School District has 18,400 square miles making it expensive to travel personnel from one community to the next for isolated services. School counselors are shared between Tonopah and Gabbs, Round Mountain currently has no counselor and the Pahrump elementary schools and Pathways share a counselor. Each school gets services one day a week in Pahrump.

The district FRL rate for August, according to district food services, is at 68%. All schools in the district are Title I except Round Mountain, Tonopah, Duckwater and Pathways. Poverty is an indicator that is apparent in all of the Nye communities. Students have special needs academically and emotionally that are not being addressed because of a lack of qualified personnel.

Nye County School District currently has limited school counseling, mental, and emotional health services and staff. There is one RN serving the whole district, one psychiatrist and only one counselor serving all of the elementary schools in Pahrump.

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Significant community factors impact the students and their families in Nye County. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration division of the US Department of Health and Human Services, all of Nye County is designated as a Medically Underserved Area/Population (MUA) and a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) because there is a high infant mortality, high poverty or a high elderly population and a shortages of primary medical care, dental and mental health providers. The Nevada Division of Public Health estimates that of the total number of rural Nevada children that are in need of mental health services 66% are without services.

The current Nye County Board of Commissioners has cut services back to the state mandated level of funding. This recent and ongoing gutting of social services, juvenile services, educational services, senior services, courts, and law enforcement is just beginning to echo out into the community and further impact students and their families.

These issues are compounded by the fact that 32% of Nye County children live in poverty and many of their parents struggle with unemployment (current rate is just over 9%). Nye County and Pahrump especially, continues to struggle to recover from the economic downturn.

While Nye County offers many beautiful and entertaining opportunities, the prospects for youth to engage in positive social activities are limited. Even in the larger community of Pahrump where there are a few activities, it takes money and transportation to participate, which impedes the most vulnerable populations' engagement.

To further the efforts originated with the Safe Schools Healthy Students Project, Nye County School District will continue to partner with NyE Communities Coalition (NyECC) on this project. NyECC will assist with ensuring that the MHP's are trained and prepared for their role in the schools. NyECC will help school personnel understand how these new staff can help the students and their parents and be a resource to school personnel. Additionally, NyECC will ensure that the MHP understand the need to maintain that connection to the community so that they bridge between student, school, and community.

The location / school specific data below highlights some of the priority areas of concern that the MHP will focus on at each site. The communities and schools across Nye County have unique and individual issues and concerns. The information on each location includes:

- Amargosa – (5th, Middle, High School Students)
 - English Language Learners (ELL)
 - School In Need of Improvement
 - Counselor in the last year of funding through a School Improvement Grant
 - Highest student migrant population in the state
- Gabbs- (5th, Middle, High School Students)
 - Daily Attendance Rate
 - Elementary School – Focus School
 - Native American Students – 33%
 - FRL (August, 2015) – average 84.67%

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- Closest urban area is 193 miles, one way
- Pahrump Elementary– (Floyd, Manse, JG Johnson, Hafen 5th Grade Students)
 - Manse Elementary
 - Title I
 - 70 students identified as McKinney-Vento eligible
 - Community Eligibility School (100% FRL)
 - Hafen
 - Title I
 - 18.4% total
 - Focus School
 - JG Johnson
 - Title I
 - 13.18% of total students are ELL
 - Community Eligibility School (100% FRL)
 - Floyd
 - Title I
 - Focus School
 - FRL – 62%
- Pahrump High School – (9-12th Grade-1,248 Students)
 - Habitual Truants – 228 of 1248
 - Title I – 60% FRL (August, 2015)
- Pathways- (5th, Middle, High School Students)
 - Transiency rates
 - Alternative School
 - On-line coursework with 3 teachers
- Rosemary Clarke – (6-8th Grade -914 Students)
 - Homeless students – 88 of 914
 - Habitual Truants -99 of 914
 - Title I – 74% FRL (August, 2015)
- Round Mountain – (5th, Middle, High School Students)
 - Elementary School – Focus School
 - Closest urban area is 266 miles, one way
- Tonopah – (5th, Middle, High School Students)
 - 2 and 3 star schools
 - Closest urban area is 206 miles, one way

Describe Use of MHP

Nye County School District has initiated the implementation of social workers and other mental health professionals (MHP) into the schools through the Safe Schools Healthy Students (SSHS) project in collaboration with Nye Communities Coalition. This MHP project will expand, refine and sustain the efforts that have been initiated through the SSHS Project. At every grade level (5th – 12th) the mental health professional (MHP) will assist with screening and identification of

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students in need of services that will mitigate the issues that are interfering with their learning and succeeding in school.

The MHP will utilize the PBIS Response to Intervention Model to address the needs of students, implementing prevention activities including screening for all students, recognizing that around 15% of students will benefit from secondary interventions and then around 5% will require tertiary, more intensive, interventions. The more intensive services will include completion of psychosocial assessments, additional screenings, behavioral contracts, linkages to services, individual and group counseling, case management, de-escalation, crisis intervention, conflict resolution, anger management assistance, development of social interaction skills, alleviating family stress, and referrals to services.

The MHP's services will be appropriate and effective for each age group, school and community setting. Services will be reflective of the students' ages and needs. Additionally, the MHP will serve as a resource for the students, teachers, administration other school staff, and families of students to provide case management and other services that will bridge school, home, and community for the students. In smaller communities the MHP will work across the ages / grades, serving 5th to 12th grade students. The MHP will serve as a resource for school personnel, providing information and training so that the school staff better understands the student and their family situation.

At a more macro level the MHP will participate in identification of disparate populations, understanding of causal relationships, selection of interventions, and creation and refinement of policies and procedures. In each community the MHP will connect with and regularly attend community meetings including Nye Communities Coalition meetings and the State of Nevada MDT (Multi-Disciplinary Teams). This connection to the community will be key to the MHP staying relevant and aware of services, programs, issues in each community, and identification of families in need.

Amargosa

Amargosa Elementary and Middle Schools are co-located and will serve as a location where one primary requirement for the MHP will be a bilingual provider as the population of ELL and Spanish speaking families is prevalent. High school students from Amargosa attend school at Beatty High School. These communities can be served by one MHP, primarily housed in Amargosa where the majority of the students reside. This provider will serve the schools' students and their families.

There are currently no providers of any mental health services in Amargosa Valley. The MHP will provide what services fall within their scope of work and will bridge that gap in services by accessing telehealth services, connecting with out of town providers in Pahrump and Las Vegas, and removing the barriers that the families may have in regard to transportation, insurance and capacity to manage their needs. This high risk community and school will benefit from having a dedicated MHP focused solely on their community; culturally competent; aware of, understanding of, and capable of making positive changes within a disparate population.

Gabbs

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Schools such as Gabbs that are K-12th require a unique and well trained MHP to address the wide range of ages along with the ethnic makeup of the community as about one third of the students identify as Native American. However, the small numbers of students and the limited pool of qualified social work applicants create a more realistic scenario to include having the MHP in Gabbs work approximately half time and as a Community Health Worker. Every effort will be made to engage an individual that identifies as Native American.

The MHP can link individuals to services through telehealth, coordinate transportation, provide information dissemination and peer group facilitation. They can provide onsite coordination and bring in additional resources to the community. The MHP can examine and address the daily attendance rate, the lowest in the district; seeking understanding at the individual level and helping each student attend regularly. The MHP can be “locally grown”, recruiting an individual from the Gabbs or Yomba community that can be trained to provide services and will be less likely to leave as they are part of the community.

Pahrump Elementary

There will be one Pahrump Elementary School MHP focused on 5th graders. A priority area for all elementary schools will be preparing for transitioning the 5th graders into middle school. They will work with each elementary to determine other priority needs and most at risk students. Manse Elementary in Pahrump has identified 70 students as homeless, significantly more than any other elementary school. The MHP will work closely with the McKinney Vento staff member at Manse and other schools to ensure that the identified homeless students have the necessary services. Each elementary school has a McKinney Vento contact but there is not a specific person to oversee the program. The MHP will provide the daily case management necessary for the students in these situations.

Another priority area for the Elementary MHP will be students and families of students that are currently on an IEP and ELL. Hafen and JG Johnson have respective high rates in both areas and will be priority areas of focus for the MHP. The MHP will serve as a resource for the special education department to assist with the social and emotional needs of students. This may include small group instruction, role playing and practicing communication.

Pahrump Valley High School

Pahrump Valley High School is similar in size and issues to many large city schools; but, with fewer resources for positive social development than occurs in more urban counterparts. As a MUA/HPSA designated site; it is recognized that there is significant need without the adequate personnel to address the need. Due to a variety of reasons, Pahrump has significant negative social forces that interfere with a student's success in school and very limited resources to address those forces and the needs that are created.

While there are daily social and emotional issues at PVHS, each week school administration must address significant mental and emotional health concerns. The current SSSS program is beginning to serve as a resource in some cases; however, the go to response has had to be contacting the sheriff's office or EMS for transport to the hospital. The additional MHP will allow some identification prior to the extreme situations that are currently being seen that will allow for intervention to occur before it gets to the point of legal or medical “holds”, in addition to stabilizing multiple students on a daily basis so that they can attend class and focus.

Daily, students at PVHS are dealing with drug abuse in the home, assaults, homelessness, poverty, abuse, parental dysfunction, missing parents, significant undiagnosed and untreated mental health issues of themselves and family members, substance abuse, health and physical ailments, death, hunger, economic crisis and other issues. There have been multiple instances of parents of PVHS students moving away and leaving their underage child to fend for themselves. Many of the students do not have parents that are able or willing to advocate for their children; the MHP can provide that linkage to service and the support that a teenager needs to hone their self-advocacy skills. The MHP can focus on the habitually truant, homeless students, students in crisis, students with IEP's and those screened as having problems.

Pathways

Pathways Innovative Education in Pahrump serves as an alternative school primarily for middle and high school students. Understandably there is a high transiency rate for these students. The MHP will be able to fully examine disparate populations and address some of the underlying issues. This will include working with Hispanic students that attend Pathways who have the lowest daily attendance rates to remove the barriers that limit their attendance.

Pathways students are highly diverse in regard to the reasoning that they attend an alternative school. The MHP will work with the students and their families to meet their unique needs and remove the barriers that limit their success. Pathway students experience many of the same issues as those students at RCMS and PVHS but may have further extenuating circumstances that include medical or emotional conditions that limit their ability to successfully attend regular school. The MHP will work with Pathways staff to understand the individual circumstances of each student.

Rosemary Clarke Middle School

Of the 362 current Nye County students that are identified as homeless, 88 of them are students at Rosemary Clarke Middle School (RCMS). While the McKinney-Vento (MV) Homeless student program staff member provides many services and resources to these students; the RCMS MHP will provide onsite case management and resource assistance for those students and their families. The MHP will not be limited to MV identified students but this will be an area of focus at schools with a high homeless population.

As is the case with many middle school age students, much of the focus for the MHP will be helping with coping skill development and transitioning into middle school and then into high school. Small group processing is especially effective at a middle school level and the MHP will use that tool among others to help youth succeed. One of the more unusual factors of rural Nevada and especially Pahrump where the community is so spread out, and this age especially, is the isolation that many students feel and experience. They are old enough that parents are comfortable leaving them home alone while they work long shifts, oftentimes evenings and weekends in Las Vegas. These students are transported to and from school on the buses and are reliant upon the limits of the school day for all of their interaction with peers and adults.

This loneliness can manifest into mental health and social problems. The MHP can help identify these situations and seek ways to engage the student and their families so that the student is no longer so isolated. Some of the effects of this isolation along with other issues were identified

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through the Signs of Suicide Screening completed last spring. More than half of the students screened had significant issues that required immediate mental health intervention. The MHP can assist the SSHS project with the screening but more importantly can help with the ongoing case management of the identified students.

Round Mountain

Round Mountain Elementary, Middle and High School will share an MHP. Socio economically, the community of Round Mountain is very well off which should translate to a protective factor for the community and the students. However, the mining work requires long days on and then blocks of days off. Parents of the student will leave their child unsupervised at times and travel to Reno or Las Vegas for medical appointments and recreation. This along with the lack of services and limited recreational opportunities creates an atmosphere where the students are without adequate parental supervision.

Family mental and emotional health concerns often go untreated as there are very limited services in the area. The MHP can assist the students and family members by providing alleviating social support services and referrals to more intensive services. The MHP will use the systems set up by the SSHS program to provide telehealth connections to services.

Tonopah

Tonopah Elementary, Middle and High Schools will be combined to be served by one MHP. This will further develop and sustain the SSHS position currently in place. The MHP will have a primary office but have desks at each school site so that they become familiar to students, families and school personnel. They will use Parent / Teacher conferences and other school events as an avenue to make connections.

This MHP will be broad in their scope of work and knowledge as they will cover grades 5-12. They will assist with McKinney-Vento case management, identifying students through IEP, ILL, screenings, and crisis. While there are some services in Tonopah the medical and mental health community is unstable and sporadic. Office hours are changing as the majority of providers come in from larger cities. The MHP will advocate for and assist students and their families as they maneuver the changing health care situation in rural frontier Nevada and the barriers that arise.

BUDGET/EXPENDITURE

NCSD budget will be based on the amount provided by the state; however compensation will be based on upon skill, knowledge, qualifications and assigned responsibilities. The amount for each MHP's compensation will be adjusted accordingly once hiring occurs with the average residing at \$37 per hour.

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Location	# of FTE	Rate per Hour	Fringe	Hourly Subtotal (Rate plus Fringe)	Total Hours for School Year	Total Annual Request Per location (Hourly Subtotal x Total Hours for School Year x # of FTE)
Amargosa	1	\$37	\$10,958.79	\$53.80	652.5	\$35,101.29
Gabbs	.5	\$37	\$2,977.28	\$48.11	268	\$12,893.28
Pahrump ES	1	\$37	\$10,542.19	\$54.14	615	\$33,297.19
PVHS	4	\$37	\$42,168.76	\$54.14	2460	\$133,188.76
Pathways	1	\$37	\$10,542.19	\$54.14	615	\$33,297.19
RCMS	3	\$37	\$31,626.57	\$54.14	1845	\$99,891.57
Round Mtn.	1	\$37	\$9,292.40	\$55.49	502.5	\$27,884.90
Tonopah	1	\$37	\$10,542.19	\$54.14	615	\$33,297.19

Per day cost of MHP \$4,985.99

Remaining Days for Nye County School District from February 1, 2016 - ***72 (average)**

*Amargosa has extra days as a SIG school

*Gabbs/Round Mountain are on 4 day per week schedules.

ASSURANCES

The undersigned provides the following assurances:

1. Through training, professional development and collaboration – all Social Workers and Mental Health Professionals are subject to abiding by the theory of action and mission statement of the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment.
2. The funding will be utilized to fund the mental health professional. The funds will not be used for any other purpose.
3. The schools and districts funded will administer that Nevada School Climate/Social and Emotional Learning Survey in the spring annually.
4. The district will submit data as requested for the required annual report.
5. If it is determined that a school or district is not implementing the programs or services for which it received money, or does not meet performance levels, a plan of corrective action will be developed and implanted that results in meeting the requirements and/or performance levels.
6. Any remaining balance of funds will not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2016, and will be reverted to the State General Fund after all payments of money committed have been made.
7. Districts will submit an annual Financial Report.

Signature: _____

Authorized Representative

DALE A. NORTON

Print Name Here

1-4-16

Date

Nye County School District

Organization